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“Attraction from considerable distances is certainly effected for the most part by the odour of the flowers, which fills the air as with invisible clouds, and indicates the direction for flight; when the insects approach nearer (1–2 m.), the colours of flowers undertake the task of attracting them further, and when they finally settle, the lines and points long since described by Sprengel under the name of ‘Saftmal’ (*i. e.*, sap-mark) serve to point out the way to the nectar.”

C. STUART GAGER.

### FIELD MEETINGS OF THE CLUB

The fifth forestry lesson was given in Van Cortlandt Park on June 2. Twelve persons were present, with Dr. Marshall A. Howe as instructor and guide. The general subject of the lesson was “Reproduction of the Forest.” Attention was directed to the extensive and often wasteful cutting of the American forests and the great economic importance of the replacement of the forests was emphasized. Natural and artificial methods of forest reproduction were discussed, as was also the rapidity of growth of such trees as the white pine, the hardy catalpa, and the black locust, which, even when grown from the seed, may yield one or more crops of marketable timber within an ordinary lifetime. The temperature of the air, the amount of moisture in the soil, and other less important conditions affecting the prevalence of certain trees were spoken of. The fact that seedlings of certain trees cannot live and thrive in the shade of their parents was mentioned as one of the chief causes of the rotation or succession of species that is sometimes observed in forests. Young beeches and maples are so tolerant of shade that they commonly succeed older individuals of the same species, and white pine often succeeds itself when the stand is not too dense.

On June 9, the sixth forestry lesson was given at the New York Botanical Garden, with Mr. H. A. Gleason as instructor and guide. The hemlock forest and other wooded portions of Bronx Park were visited. The character of the forest floor, the soil and light conditions, plant associations, and natural pruning were the special subjects for observation and discussion.

The excursion announced for June 16, to Alpine, New Jersey, with Dr. P. A. Rydberg as guide, was not made, the weather conditions being very unfavorable.

The excursion of June 23 was to Montclair Heights, N. J., under the guidance of Dr. Rusby. The weather was very threatening and but five persons attended. The storm broke almost immediately after the party left the train, but not until after a number of interesting plants had been collected. *Leucothoë* was found in a wet pocket in the trap rock, but was past flowering. The development of plants of *Geranium carolinianum* L., growing under different conditions of soil and exposure, was found very interesting. Careful observations were made of the fruiting stage of *Viola alsophila* Greene. The plant formed a dense growth, to the exclusion of all else, in large patches on wet ground, reaching a height of eight to ten inches. Its habit at this time is very erect, and a striking peculiarity is the perfectly horizontal position of the leaf blades. The distinguishing characteristics of these blades are the peculiar sparse hairiness of the upper surface and the satiny sheen of the glabrous lower surface. The cleistogamous fruits were scarcely full-grown, and their position and form and the curvature of the peduncles showed much variation, but they were for the most part sharply recurved, or almost reflexed, which is probably the typical mature condition. This plant is probably the real *V. blanda* Willd., as indicated by the original figure.

On June 30, the excursion was to West Orange, N. J., under the leadership of Mr. Percy Wilson.

The meeting of July 2 to 9, in connection with the Botanical Symposium was at Mountain Lodge, Little Moose Lake, the seventeen persons in attendance being guests of the Adirondack League Club. The flora of the region has been attentively studied for some years past by several members of that Club, especially by Mrs. Annie Morrill Smith, who has published a preliminary list of the plants. The work of the visiting botanists on this occasion will perhaps add a score or more of species to this list. The method of work was to make extended excursions during the day, and exhibit the collections and discuss the results

at evening meetings, held in a large room over the boat-house. All were heartily grateful to their hosts for the care taken for their comfort and for the success of their work. Mrs. Smith was indefatigable in arranging and providing for the party. Interest centered chiefly, perhaps, in the violets, the ferns and the edible fruits. The violets were here, as everywhere, very puzzling, and proved that we have not even yet a basis for properly understanding the genus. *Viola renifolia* Gray was the predominant species, and was observed closely. It is quite evident that it is the northern ally of *V. alsophila* Greene, the differences between the two being slight, although genuinely specific. The most conspicuous and constant is the hairy lower leaf-surfaces and petioles of *V. renifolia*. The strawberries came in for special attention, all the eastern species except the red form of *Fragaria vesca* and *F. canadensis* being collected. The white-fruited *F. vesca* was very markedly later than any other. *Fragaria Terrae-novae* Rydberg was collected on the summit of Burnt Mountain on July 3 with ripe fruit. Dr. Rydberg was present and identified the species. The plants grow in company with *F. virginiana* Duch. Other plants growing with it were *Rubus americanus* (Pers.) Britt., with fine ripe fruit, *R. hispidus* L. in full bloom, a species of *Gyrostachys* in a young state, perhaps *G. plantaginea* (Raf.) Britton, all in damp pockets in crevices of the rocky summit. In drier spots, *Polygonum cilinode* Michx. and *Achroanthus unifolia* (Michx.) Raf. were collected. On the shores of Little Moose Lake grow two very different forms of *Vaccinium canadense* Richards. One is the ordinary very pubescent form. The other has much smaller, narrower and thinner leaves and is much less hairy. The plant is very low, and its branches spread almost perfectly horizontally. This form may well prove distinct. The fruit in both was very young. Other interesting material collected for the economic museum of the New York Botanical Garden included *Ribes prostratum* L'Her., with ripe fruit, *R. lacustre* (Pers.) Poir., with immature fruit, *Amelanchier canadensis* (L.) Medic., and the rhizomes of *Calla palustris* L. The many forms of *Amelanchier*, growing together in masses on the lake shores were almost discouraging to one who would find constant specific characters.

On Saturday afternoon, July 7, representatives of the Club visited Central Park, New York City, under the guidance of Dr. Edmund B. Southwick, and examined some of the rare trees and shrubs there under cultivation.

The field meeting of July 14 was devoted especially to a study of the mosses, Mr. R. S. Williams acting as guide and instructor. Members of the party met at the Museum of the New York Botanical Garden and walked thence to Van Cortlandt Park, where various types of mosses were observed.

The excursion planned for July 21, to Little Falls, N. J., was prevented by the persistently stormy character of the day.

On July 28, members of the Club enjoyed the hospitality of Professor L. M. Underwood at Redding, Connecticut, where numerous gorges and wooded ravines offer an interesting flora. Flowering or fruiting specimens representing thirty-seven natural families of seed-plants were collected.

The field meeting of August 4 was an excursion especially for marine algae. Hunter's Island, which is on Long Island Sound within the limits of New York City, was visited, with Dr. Marshall A. Howe as guide. *Gracilaria confervoides* (L.) Grev. was among the rare and more interesting species found.

#### NEWS ITEMS

Dr. J. N. Rose, associate curator of the Division of Plants, U. S. National Museum, left Washington August 1, to continue his botanical explorations in Mexico.

Professor C. F. Baker, botanist of the Estación Agronómica Central de Cuba, has recently spent a month or more in the United States, returning to Cuba on August 15.

Homer D. House, associate professor of botany and bacteriology in Clemson College, was engaged during the month of July in holding farmers' institutes in various parts of South Carolina.

Dr. Augustine Henry, well known by his travels and botanical collections in China and Formosa, arrived in New York on the *Majestic*, August 3, for a tour of the United States and Canada.